

I Can't Make the Workshop,
Can I Still be Involved?

Yes. You can mail in this written comment form. You can also request to be placed on the project mailing list. Newsletters prepared during the course of the study will be mailed periodically to keep you informed. Additional workshops are tentatively scheduled for May. To obtain additional information you can contact Mike Vogel, Idaho Transportation Department Public Involvement Coordinator at (208) 334-4444.



For more information contact:

Idaho Transportation Department
Public Involvement Coordinator
Mike Vogel
(208) 334-4444

Idaho Transportation Department
Project Manager
Carl Main
(208) 334-8919

HDR Engineering, Inc.
Project Manager
Louis Krug
(208) 342-3779

Meeting Schedule
Round 1

Public Agency Input Group
Wednesday, February 23, 2000
8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Idaho Transportation Headquarters, Room 200
3311 W. State Street, Boise

Idaho 55 - Smiths Ferry to Round Valley Team
Thursday, February 24, 2000
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Cougar Mountain Lodge, Smiths Ferry

Public Workshop
Wednesday, March 1, 2000
4 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Cascade Legion Hall, Cascade

Comments In Writing

If you would like to submit comments in writing, use the tear-off card and mail them to:

Idaho Transportation Department
Public Involvement Coordinator
P.O. BOX 7129
Boise, ID 83707-1129




Idaho Transportation Department
P. O. Box 7129
Boise, ID 83707-1129

BULK RATE
US POSTAGE
PAID
BOISE, IDAHO
PERMIT NO. 143

Idaho Transportation Department
P.O. Box 7129
Boise, ID 83707-1129

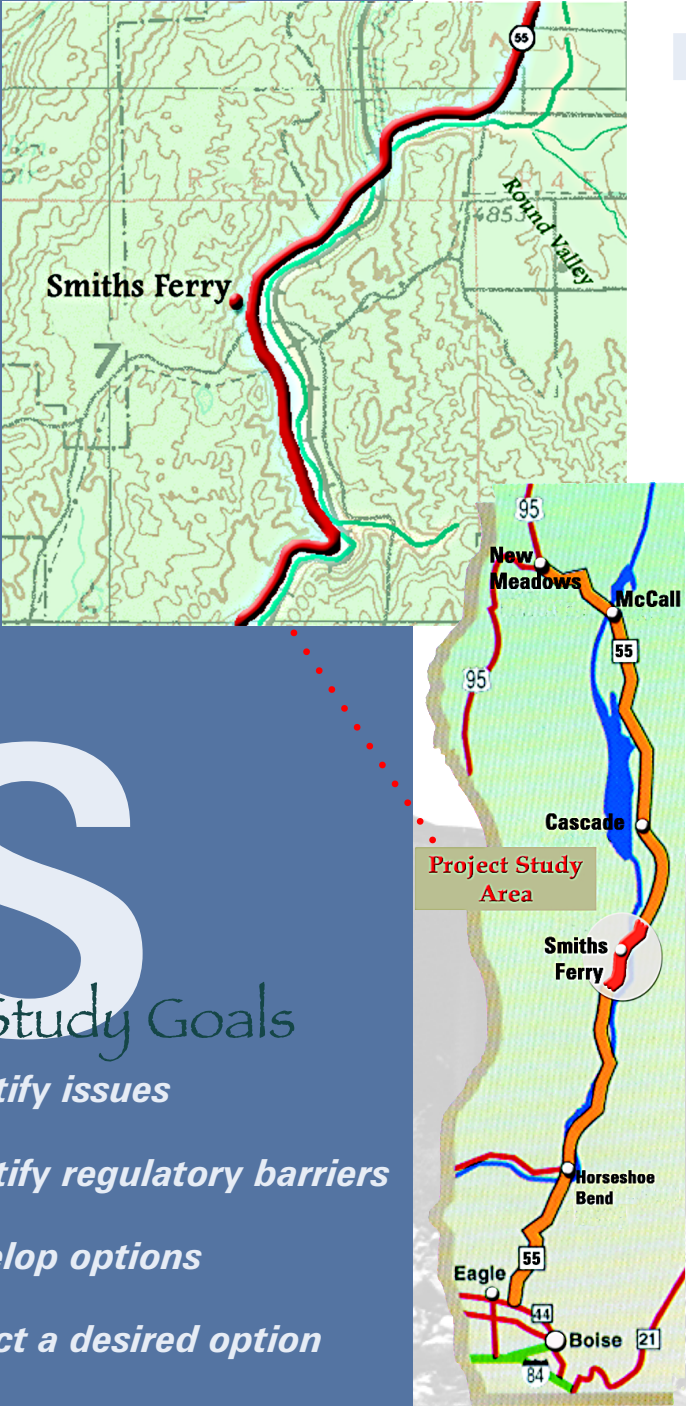
Idaho Transportation Department
Public Involvement Coordinator
P.O. Box 7129
Boise, ID 83707-1129

PLACE
STAMP
HERE



Idaho 55 - Smiths Ferry to Round Valley

Alignment Study



The Idaho Transportation Department wants your help in developing options for Idaho 55 - Smiths Ferry to Round Valley.

The transportation department values your opinion. That's why a study is being conducted for the Idaho 55 - Smiths Ferry to Round Valley project. During the study, the transportation department is asking the public to help develop options for the project.

Idaho 55 is a major north-south route through Idaho that is becoming more important as the population increases. It serves recreational traffic as well as truck traffic throughout the year.

The seven-mile section of Idaho 55 from south of Smiths Ferry to Round Valley is a narrow, winding highway. The area often experiences congestion during holidays and weekends. The narrow shoulders and tight curves contribute to an accident rate that is 1.5 times higher than the statewide average.

The transportation department has long recognized the need to improve this section of highway. Previous studies from as far back as 1974 have recommended major improvements, but funding was not available.

Funding became available, so the transportation department has made the project a top priority.

The purpose of the Idaho 55 - Smiths Ferry to Round Valley study is to decide which option will best improve safety, address congestion and accommodate for the future.

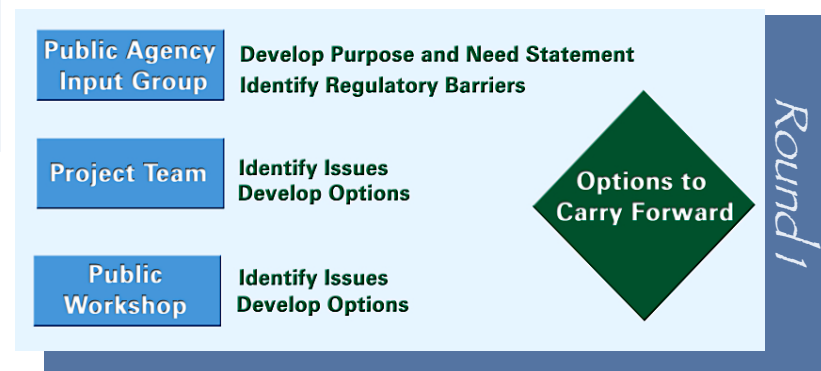
Study Goals

- Identify issues
- Identify regulatory barriers
- Develop options
- Select a desired option

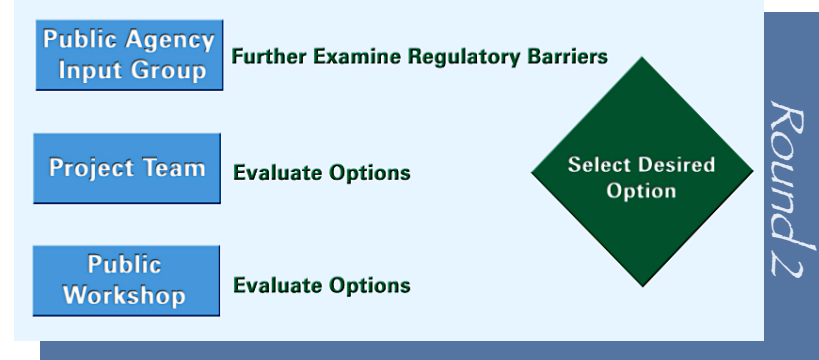
Winter 2000



The Process



Meetings will be conducted to gather input. Each of the first two rounds consists of a Public Agency Input Group Meeting, an Idaho 55 - Smiths Ferry to Round Valley Team Meeting and a Public Workshop. During the first round the study will: identify project related issues, identify state and federal regulations that affect the project, and develop options. The second round will evaluate options identified during the first round and form a consensus on an option.



Preliminary Design
More Public Input

Where Do I Fit In?

Public Agency Input Group

The Public Agency Input Group is made up of state and federal agencies. Its function is to identify issues, concerns and regulations related to the Idaho 55 - Smiths Ferry to Round Valley project.

Idaho 55 - Smiths Ferry to Round Valley Team

The Idaho 55 - Smiths Ferry to Round Valley Team is a group of citizens that represent the interests and concerns of environmental associations, recreational groups, businesses, neighborhoods and property owners that could be affected by the Idaho 55 - Smiths Ferry

to Round Valley project. The team will identify issues, develop options and strive to form consensus on a desired option. The team includes a cross-section of interested citizens from various social and economic groups affected by the project.

General Public

The public will be invited to participate in two separate Idaho 55 - Smiths Ferry to Round Valley workshops. Participants at the first workshop will help the transportation department identify project-related issues and develop options. The second workshop will focus on forming a consensus on the desired option.

Questions and Answers

Hasn't this project been studied before?

Yes. Studies were conducted as far back as 1974. Although previous studies did recommend major reconstruction of this section of highway, funds were not available at that time.

Why now?

Significant population increases in Idaho are emphasizing the need to make improvements to Idaho 55 to compensate for the increase in traffic. The Transportation Equity Act of the 21st Century named Idaho 55 - Smiths Ferry to Round Valley a high priority project. That means federal dollars have been specifically earmarked for the project. The transportation department has made the project a top priority.

Has the transportation department already decided what it wants to do?

No. That's why the transportation department is doing this study. This study will evaluate a wide range of options including the "No Action" option, which means that the highway would remain essentially the same as it is today. Public input will play a major role in the final decision on what will be done.

What will happen to the Rainbow Bridge?

The Rainbow Bridge is an old, narrow bridge within the project limits. This historic bridge was recently redecked. However, because of its age and condition, it would be difficult and economically unfeasible to improve the bridge to meet current standards. A new bridge would be desirable. Because it is a historic structure, the bridge will not be demolished; a new bridge will need to be constructed. The location will be determined by this study.

How many miles of Idaho 55 are in the proposed study area?

About seven miles of Idaho 55 are considered inside the study area. The study begins at mile post 94, just south of Smiths Ferry, and ends as the highway enters Round Valley at mile post 101.

When will the project begin?

The study should be completed by mid 2000. Once a desired option has been selected, preliminary design for the project would begin. The construction phase of the project has been tentatively scheduled for 2003.

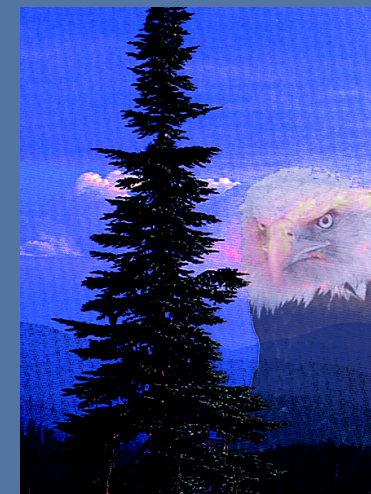
What will the project cost?

Since a desired option has not been selected, estimated project cost cannot yet be determined.

What is the next step?

After the first round of meetings, the transportation department will review each potential option. Evaluations and cost estimates of the options will be presented during the second round of meetings.

Comments



Environmental Concerns

Through planning and citizen involvement, steps are being taken to minimize impacts to the environment. To ensure that wildlife, wetlands, the Payette River and other concerns are addressed; a preliminary environmental evaluation is being conducted as part of this study.

